

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 121 without my signature.

This bill would create significant cost pressures on state funds at a time when there are many competing needs and limited funds available. Alternatively, I would be willing to consider elements of this bill in subsequent legislation next year if it included a phase-out of the Year Round School Grant program over a period of time and redirects those funds in 2008-09 for the purpose of assisting charter schools with their costs pursuant to SB 740. The Year Round School Grant program no longer serves the purpose for which it was created, yet charter schools face daunting challenges in financing adequate facilities to meet the demands of students and their parents. Enhancing the ability of charter schools to secure adequate facilities, will assist them in serving their unmet demand and, at the same time, will also help address the overcrowding problem this bill attempts to address.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger